

Extra Mile winner enjoys challenge of Medicaid fraud investigations

As a Medicaid investigator, Anthony Green draws on his 21 years of experience with the New York State Police Department to bring a fresh perspective to the Program Integrity Division.

His fresh perspective, combined with extra time and effort to understand complicated pharmacy regulations, policies and processes, helped to end fraudulent billing by a south Alabama provider in 2007 and resulted in the recoupment of over \$800,000 for the state of Alabama.

In recognition of his efforts, Green was named Medicaid's Extra Mile Employee for January - March 2008. The Extra Mile award is given quarterly to an outstanding Medicaid employee who has gone beyond his or her assigned job duties. Nominated by a supervisor or co-workers, the recipient is chosen by a selection committee of agency employees.



"Tony was very dedicated in working with us to understand the prescription process, Medicaid pharmacy policy, and State Board of Pharmacy regulations related to the case," Director of Pharmacy Services Kelli Littlejohn, Pharm. D., said in her nomination letter. "His attention to detail was very impressive."

Littlejohn notes that his innovative approach extends to every aspect of what he does for Medicaid. "He is a valuable asset to our Agency," she said.

Learning how to work within the medical field has been one of the most rewarding challenges for Green in his three years as an investigator with the agency. "Investigations are investigations, but they are almost apples and oranges," he said of the differences between police and medical investigations. "In a homicide case, the race is against time and weather to gather evidence before it disappears, or is corrupted."

"A Medicaid case is a more controlled analytical investigation allowing for a precise understanding of the situation. Sometimes you just need to take a different look at the problem, which can shed new light on the subject and lead to a different resolution," Green explained.

The Buffalo, N.Y., native found himself living in Montgomery by chance. "I woke up one morning to a snow storm and said I can't do this anymore," Green said. A fellow officer, who had retired to Montgomery three years earlier, recommended he relocate here as well. "It's been nice. Different, but nice."